

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00669 222000Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5249

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC, EAID

SUBJ: ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MEMBERS FHWA
CONSULTATIVE TEAM

REF: STATE 14642, 75 TEHRAN 11070, 75 TEHRAN 7679

1. MINFORAFFAIRS PROTOCOL CHIEF BAKHTIAR ADHERING FIRMLY TO POSITION THAT, WHILE JULY 1966 REGULATIONS DO ACCORD CERTAIN PRIVILEGES AND EXEMPTIONS, THEY DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY CONFER "OFFICIAL" STATUS ON EXPERTS AND THEREFORE DO NOT INVEST MINISTRY WITH AUTHORITY TO ISSUE "YELLOW CARDS" DENOTING OFFICIAL STATUS, WITHOUT WHICH EMBASSY CANNOT EFFECT CUSTOMS CLEARANCES.

2. PENDING QUESTION STATUS OF EXPERTS HAS BEEN RAISED REGULARLY WITH BAKHTIAR IN PERSON, BY LETTER AND TELEPHONE, STRESSING URGENCY CREATED BY PRESENCE IN COUNTRY OF FIRST GROUP. BAKHTIAR NOTED TO DCM THAT HE STUDYING QUESTION IN CONSULTATION WITH MINECONAFFAIRS/FIN AS GOVERNMENT ENTITY INITIATING EXCHANGE.

3. IN ANY EVENT, IMPLEMENTATION OF SUGGESTED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS (TEHRAN 11070) DEPENDS ON RATIFICATION BY GOI OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. AGREEMENT HAS PASSED LOWER HOUSE OF MAJLIS AND BAKHTIAR EXPECTS SENATE ACTION "VERY SOON," AFTER WHICH, HE STATES,
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THERE WILL BE "NO FURTHER PROBLEM." BAKHTIAR PROMISED

EARLY ADVICE ON OUR SUGGESTION THAT PROTOCOL ISSUE
TEMPORARY DOCUMENTATION PENDING RATIFICATION, ALTHOUGH
NO WORD HAS YET BEEN CONVEYED.

4. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MINROADS/TRANSPORT, AS PRIMARY
INTERESTED GOI PARTY, PRESS FORAFFAIRS AND MINECON/FIN
FOR RAPID RESOLUTION OF QUESTION. MINROADS HAS BEEN
INDUCED RELUCTANTLY TO WRITE LETTER OF GUARANTEE (WITH-
OUT POSTING BOND) TO ENABLE CLEARANCE OF HHE IN COUNTRY
THROUGH CUSTOMS. THIS TACK MAY SOLVE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM,
BUT POLICY QUESTION STILL RESTS IN PROTOCOL HANDS.

5. AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, TRANSLATING GOI ASSURANCES
AND PROMISES INTO BUREAUCRATICALLY SMOOTH OPERATION
SUFFERS FROM A DEPLORABLE TIME LAG. CUTBACKS IN FIFTH
PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND REASSESSMENTS OF PRIORITIES
ENGENDERED BY CURRENT GOI REVENUE AND FISCAL PROBLEMS
HAVE EXACERBATED NORMALLY SLOW BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSES.
THE SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO WHICH DEPART-
MENT REFERS WAS A VERY NON-SPECIFIC DOCUMENT, FOR
WHICH THE GOI SIGNATORY HAD EVIDENTLY NOT THOUGHT
THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS.
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